

Please amend claim 35 as follows:

- C²
35. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for [the protein of claim 1] a purified mammalian protein having the ability to bind the cytoplasmic region of CD40 receptor.

Please add the following new claims:

48. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that is at least 90% homologous to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 297 to 567 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.
49. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acids 297 to 567 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.
50. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that is at least 90% homologous to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.
- C³
51. (New) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.
52. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claims 48 to 51, wherein the nucleic acid is cDNA or RNA.
- Sub D
53. (New) A composition comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claims 48 to 51 and a carrier.